IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Original) System (100A, 100B, 200, 300) for operating a plurality of loads (1A, 1B, 1C) having a negative dynamical impedance using a common power source;
the system comprising N branches (110, 120, 130) connected in parallel between a first input node (A) and a second input node (102), N being an integer larger than 2;
wherein each branch comprises a load arrangement containing at least one load connected in series;
the N load arrangements being selected such that, if each branch conducts the same current, the voltage drops over all loads are mutually substantially equal;
the system further comprising current equalizing means for ensuring that the currents in all branches are mutually substantially equal.

2.   (Original) System (100; 300) according to claim 1, wherein said current equalizing means comprise a plurality of N-1 current equalizing devices (151; 152), wherein N-1 pairs of branches (110, 120; 120, 130) are always coupled together through one associated equalizing device (151; 152).

3.   (Original) System (100; 300) according to claim 2, wherein the current equalizing devices comprise equalizing transformers, and wherein each equalizing transformer (151; 152) has one winding (114; 125) connected in series with the load arrangement (1A; 1B) of a first branch (110; 120) and has another winding (124; 135) connected in series with the load arrangement (1B; 1C) of a second branch (120; 130).

4.   (Original) System (300) according to claim 2, further comprising an N-th equalizing device (153) coupling together an N-th pair of branches (130, 110).

5.   (Original) System (300) according to claim 4, wherein the current equalizing devices comprise equalizing transformers, and wherein each branch (110; 120; 130) comprises a series arrangement of one load arrangement (1A; 1B: 1C) and two windings (114, 116; 124, 125; 135, 136) of corresponding transformers (151, 153; 151, 152; 152, 153).

6.   (Original) System (200) according to claim 1, wherein said current equalizing means comprise a plurality of N-1 equalizing transformers (151, 152), wherein an equalizing transformer (151) has one winding (114) connected in series with one load arrangement (1A) and has another winding (124) connected in series with a parallel arrangement of a plurality of load branches (120, 130).

7.   (Original) System according to claim 6, wherein said parallel arrangement of a plurality of load branches (120, 130) comprises another equalizing transformer (152) having a first winding (125) connected in series with one load arrangement (1B) and having another winding (135) connected in series with a parallel arrangement of at least one load branch (130).

8.   (Original) System according to claim 7, wherein said first equalizing transformer (151) has its other winding (124) connected in series with a parallel connection of the two windings (125, 135) of said other equalizing transformer (152).

9.   (Original) System (300) according to claim 1, wherein said current equalizing means comprise a plurality of $(1/2) \cdot N \cdot (N-1)$ current equalizing devices (151, 152, 153), each pair of branches (110, 120; 110, 130; 120, 130) always being coupled together through one associated equalizing device (151; 152; 153).

10.   (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein each branch (110; 120; 130) comprises a series arrangement of a load arrangement (1A; 1B; 1C) and at least one winding (114; 124, 125; 135) of at least one equalizing transformer (151; 151, 152; 152), wherein said load arrangement (1A; 1B; 1C) is arranged between a high-voltage input node (A) and said at least one winding (114; 124, 125; 135) of said at least one equalizing transformer (151; 151, 152; 152).

11.   (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein a load comprises a gas discharge lamp.

12.   (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein all loads are mutually substantially identical.

13.   (Original) System according to claim 1, wherein N=3.

14.   (Original) System according to claim 1, having an input terminal connected to the first input node (A) for coupling to an output terminal of a high frequency driver, and having a plurality of lamp sockets for receiving lamps (1A, 1B, 1C).

15.   (Original) System according to claim 1, having an input connector for coupling to a lamp socket of a high frequency driver,

the input connector having a design similar to a lamp fitting or a lamp foot.

16.   (Presently Amended) Module (M1, M2, M3, M4) for a system according to ~~any of the previous claims~~ claim 1, the module comprising:

a first input terminal (501) connected to a first contact (505) of a lamp socket;

a second input terminal (502) connected to a first terminal (511a) of a first winding (511) of an equalizing transformer (510);

a third input terminal (503) connected to a second terminal (511b) of the first winding (511) of the equalizing transformer (510);

a fourth input terminal (504) connected to a first terminal (512a) of a second winding (512) of the equalizing transformer (510);

a second contact (506) of the lamp socket being connected to a second terminal (512b) of the second winding (512) of the equalizing transformer (510).